

Posted: 7/31/2019

To: School Food Authorities

Subject: SFS-19-x149 Afterschool Meal/Snack Service in Schools Operating
Expanded Learning Time –SY 2019-20 Guidance

AFTERSCHOOL MEAL/SNACK GUIDANCE

This memo is in reference to calculation of a State Average to be used in order to determine eligibility of Afterschool meal/snack service in an **Expanded Learning Time school day for SY 2019-2020 (for CACFP and NSLP)**. For clarification, an afterschool meal/snack service could refer to the Afterschool Snack Program (ASP), available as an extension of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to school sites that participate in the NSLP, or the At Risk snack option as offered through CACFP (but not both at a given site). Further, it could refer to the Supper meal service as provided through the CACFP “At-Risk” Program.

Please note that if your school (or district) does not utilize Expanded Learning Time, then flexibilities discussed in this memo will not apply to your Afterschool Snack/M Meal Program.

In order to qualify for the Expanded Learning Time Exception during the 2019-2020 school year, a school district must operate a **minimum of 7 hours and 24 minutes on a normal school day** for the 2019-20 school year.

USDA Afterschool Meals/Snacks:

The afterschool snack components of the **National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)** were established to support schools and child care centers operating afterschool programs with educational and enrichment activities for children in the late afternoon or evening, when they might otherwise be unsupervised and engage in risky behaviors. Program regulations define afterschool care programs as those “providing organized care to enrolled school-age children *after school hours* for the purpose of care and supervision of children.” (7 CFR 210.2 and 226.17a(b)).

Also, please be reminded that eligibility determinations for these programs must be based on whether such programs are afterschool care programs with an educational or enrichment purpose, in accordance with regulations set forth by USDA in 7 CFR 210 and 7 CFR Part 226.

USDA Exception:

In a January 21, 2011 memo, USDA address recognizing Expanded Learning Time as an option for schools to provide Afterschool Snacks ([Click Here!](#) to access this memo). *“Expanded learning time is a common term used in the education arena to describe schools or school*

districts that add significantly more school time for academic and enrichment opportunities to improve student achievement.” “Therefore, a school operating longer than the traditional school day may be eligible for afterschool snack reimbursement through the NSLP or CACFP, provided that it operates a school day that is at least one hour longer than the minimum number of school day hours required for the comparable grade levels by the local educational agency in which the school is located. Thus, in determining an expanded learning program’s eligibility for reimbursement, a State agency should first use school day hour data from the particular school’s local educational agency (LEA) as the standard to determine the minimum number of school day hours required.”

“In LEAs in which all schools operate an expanded learning time program, or in single-school LEAs, the State’s average length of the school day or the average length of the school day of surrounding LEAs may be used to determine the standard minimum number of school day hours.”

Establishing a Normal Statewide Average School Day for SY 2019-2020 in Louisiana:

There has been some question as to what accounts for a normal school (average) day length. In certain school districts, where all schools are implementing learning strategies, which include longer than normal school days, a state average length of school day may be beneficial when considering providing afterschool meals and/or snacks.

Thus, in order to provide the maximum flexibility to schools wanting to provide afterschool snacks to their students in an expanded learning time environment, the LDOE Data Management team gathered the available data related to instructional time, in order to calculate the most accurate State average, with the data that is available. This information was provided to USDA for review, in order to ensure it is in keeping with USDA’s intent of determining an Expanded Learning Time in schools and for approval of afterschool snacks or meals served using the calculated average.

[At this time, the state has determined that the average length of an instructional day is approximately **6 hours and 24 minutes**.](#)

If a school or school district in Louisiana wishes to use the State average length of school day, when considering providing afterschool snacks or meals, it may utilize the 6 hours and 24 minutes **as a reference** to determine if it qualifies as operating an expanded learning time during the 2019-20 school year. And, in using this reference, **if a school or school district operates a minimum of 7 hours and 24 minutes in a normal school day for the 2019-20 school year**, it may qualify to serve snacks to children participating in expanded learning time, which is after the normal school day reference time.

Please note that school sites should allow for 30 minutes to elapse once the 6 hour 24 minute average has been reached before offering any afterschool meal option in an expanded learning environment. Further, please note that LDOE requires a minimum of one hour to elapse between the start of one afterschool meal service and the start of the next.

If you are operating an Expanded Learning Time and wish to provide After School Snacks/Meals under this exception or have any questions, please contact Shanna Legier at shanna.legier@la.gov for NSLP snacks or Karen Schexneider at karen.schexneider@la.gov for CACFP meals/snacks or call us at (225) 342-3720.

For School Sites without Expanded Learning Time:

For schools that do not meet the criteria for Expanded Learning Time, please be sure to adhere to the requirements as set forth in 7 CFR Part 210 and 226 in regards to afterschool snack/meal service, which allows for schools to begin service only after the academic school day has ended. LDOE requires a minimum of one hour to elapse between the start of one meal service and the start of the next (in an afterschool snack/meal environment). Further, school sites should wait a minimum of 30 minutes after the end of the school day before beginning any afterschool meal option that it may offer to the students.